On 26 of June 2005 Wa State Government was held ceremony for burning drugs

In on – the spot meeting, Deputy General Secretary of UWSP, Vice-chairman of Wa central Authority Xiao Ming Liang announced his statement first. He said, under the lead of UGOM, supported by UNODC, assisted by YNDCC, today, Narcotic Drugs Control Committee of Simao City and Wa Authority are jointed organizing a grand ceremony with on spot meeting on drugs burning and poppy fields slashing. The participants are officials of UGOM, UNODC, WFP, the friends of YNDCC, Narcotic Drugs Control Committee of Simao City, Lin Cang City and Sip Sawng panna Prefecture, the friends of Special Region (4) and Medias. We would like to express our warm welcome for your coming!

He emphasized: as it is known by everyone, poppy was brought into Wa region by British colonists in 1885 after Myanmar was occupied. The British Temple is the testimony of history which in front of our eyes. We conduct the ceremony of drugs burning and poppy fields slashing here today, is just in order to utterly destroy this cancer which remained by British colonists but also damaged to our Wa people. During the hundred of years, people lack of knowledge on drugs, so that the drugs have used to be the mainly income source to maintain their basic life, and some of the people fall into evil way to use drugs. Social productivity has been cut down, hindered the local economic development seriously.

Since 1989, Special Region (II) broke away from CPB, UWSP and Wa Central Authority had realized that, the narcotic drugs not only damages the world, but also makes a great disaster for the Wa people ourselves. Therefore, Wa Authority had voluntarily treated the drugs eliminating works

as one of its most important plan, formulated narcotic drugs control policies as poppy cultivation reduce year, reach to eradicate finally and eliminate poppy cultivation in 15 to 20 years. In August 26, 1990, Wa Central Authority issued { The measure and tactics on eradicating poppy cultivation}. In June 11.1991, {A general order on drugs control} has issued. In July 24, 1994, issued {Several decisions on strengthen the drugs management in Wa Region}, and setup narcotic Drugs Control Management Committee at the same year. In May 17. 1995, carried out {The action planning on poppy free in some area of Wa }. In 1997, Wa Central Authority solemnly declared to the whole world that we would make the area as drugs sources-free area in 2005. Under the series of policies and plans, since February 1.1992 till now, there were 6 drugs processing factories have been burned in the entire Wa Region (Nam ting 3, Na Wei 1, Yong ting 1, Ho Tao 1, which the worth more than 12 millions USD). Drugs the process of decreasing, over 5000 mu poppy fields have been slashed, about 700 thousands mum poppy fields have declined from 1 million mu to 300 thousands mu.

Deputy Chairman Xiao Ming Liang also introduced the situation of economic development, substitute projects in Wa. He said: in order to solve the living problem of people after opium ban, Wa Authority had input a lot of manpower, material resource and financial resources.

1. Relocations: Relocated more than 80 thousands people to the Southern where is rich natural resources November 1999 till March 2002.
2. Substitute projects: cultivated 110 thousands mu of rubbers. Planted total 240 thousands mu of Lon gan, Lichy and Tea. Cultivated more than 40 thousands mu of Teaks.
3. Factory and enterprise: the factories have given initial results eventually were Nong Nyi tin ore, Jin Chang factory, Hong Bang wine factory, Tobacco factory of Wa, paper pulp factory and Hong Bang cultivation farm.
4. Energy projects: completed 7 electric power stations with 13950 kw capacity from original 1 with only 40 kw capacity.
5. Transportation: developed to 3000 km truck line based on 300 km of original.
6. Education: opened 361 schools with 28785 students from 480 schools with 480 students.
7. Health: setup 20 hospitals and 31 clinics from 4 hospitals.
8. People's living: in the past 16 years, people's living has been improving a bit. The average income reached 800 Yuan/person/ year from 300 Yuan original.

The development of above is the advantages basic for people's life after opium ban for the year of June 2005. During the period, we obtained a lot of supporting from UGOM, UNODC, Chinese Government and friendly INGOs. Therefore, I would to express our deep gratitude on behalf of Wa Central Authority.

Today, there are 383 mu poppy fields would be slashed. 46 households' total 261 people would be impacted. 112.5 kg drugs (among them, 35 kg Heroin, 77.5 kg ATS) should be burned. This is an opportunity to express our determination once again; it is also a prelude for the drugs ban of June 2005. It's a crystal on narcotic drugs control of collaboration between Myanmar and China.

Deputy Chairman Xiao Ming Liang emphasized again, that after opium ban, Wa region would became an area without poppy cultivation, opium processing and trade. Everyone is kindly welcome to supervise.

Deputy Chairman Xiao Ming Liang expressed his hopes finally, that people's life will be impacted after opium ban, we hope UGOM, UNODC, WFP, Chinese Government and INGOs continue to support Wa in finance, materials and technical. Help our people tide over the historical difficulty. We would thank you forever!